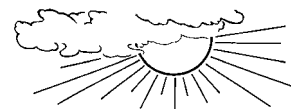




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## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 24, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

Released October 25, 2004, 4 pm

***This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)***

**Average Week for Field Work:** Wet conditions combined with cooler weather was the story throughout much of Pennsylvania last week. Principal farm activities included plowing, finishing the 4<sup>th</sup> cutting of hay, feeding livestock, harvesting corn and soybeans, sowing barley and wheat, harvesting grapes, and preparing equipment for colder weather.

### **PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 24, 2004**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	69	30

**Crops:** The corn harvest slowed a bit due to wet conditions but remains well ahead of historic trends. Fifty-five percent of this year's crop has been harvested. Corn crop condition remained primarily unchanged from the previous week with 84 percent of the crop rated as either good or excellent. The soybean harvest is in full swing and now stands at 32 percent complete. Eighty-three percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent as of last week. That is a drop of 9 percentage points from the previous week. Farmers continue to plant winter wheat at a rate well ahead of historic trends while the amount of winter wheat emerged is almost identical to the 5-year average. Eighty-five percent of barley has now emerged, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The quality of hay made this past week dwindled even further from the previous week due to the nasty weather. Only 36 percent of hay was rated as either good or excellent. Thirty percent of the hay made was rated as either very poor or poor.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions in many areas remain in poor shape as a result of this year's wet conditions. Last week's weather did nothing to help matters. Pasture conditions now stand at 3 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**U.S. As of October 17, 2004:** Highlights: Below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Nation's mid section, including the Great Plains, Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and Mississippi Delta. Moderate precipitation, mostly from the remnants of Tropical Storm Matthew, limited fieldwork in the Delta and lower Corn Belt. Conditions were mostly dry across the Great Plains, favoring summer crop maturation and harvest. Along the Pacific Coast and in the northern and central Rocky Mountains, warm, dry weather aided winter wheat planting. Temperatures were below normal in Florida and the middle Atlantic Coast States but above normal elsewhere along the Atlantic Coast, with light to moderate rainfall. Corn: Maturation advanced to 95 percent complete, 2 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Growers had harvested 44 percent of their acreage, compared with 51 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average. The crop was mature or nearly mature in most States. Winter Wheat: Planting reached 78 percent complete, 2 points behind last year but the same as the average. Fifty-seven percent of the acreage had emerged, the same as last year but 4 points ahead of normal. Soybeans: Leaf dropping, at 97 percent complete, was the same as last year and the 5-year average. Harvest advanced to 71 percent complete, compared with 70 percent for last year and the 5-year average.

# Weather Data For Week Ending October 24, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 24, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	62	42	50	-2	1.62	5	28.06	2.46	90	2,751	135	4,624
Franklin	59	38	49	1	1.37	4	40.25	13.05	105	2,589	197	4,475
Meadville	59	37	47	-1	1.00	3	35.11	7.61	96	2,431	241	4,273
Mercer	62	23	44	-5	1.16	4	33.85	8.02	87	2,047	-322	3,842
Springboro	60	37	48	-3	1.84	6	36.38	11.70	109	2,363	-199	4,194
Warren	55	37	46	-2	1.19	6	41.78	14.21	115	2,431	122	4,283
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	50	34	44	-2	0.47	1	29.11	1.77	100	1,985	333	3,747
Emporium	51	35	45	-1	1.03	5	38.15	11.19	101	2,577	696	4,441
Kane	46	26	39	-6	0.89	4	35.14	7.15	91	1,246	-366	2,865
Laporte	53	32	43	-5	1.33	4	46.48	21.14	110	2,209	-152	3,998
Lock Haven	55	37	46	-4	1.21	4	45.60	20.78	86	2,896	383	4,840
Port Allegany	52	37	45	-2	1.03	6	33.38	7.32	98	2,160	331	3,951
Renovo	55	40	47	-2	0.27	6	37.20	12.38	103	2,803	290	4,729
Ridgway	54	35	46	0	1.12	5	37.08	10.12	86	2,125	244	3,928
Stevenson Dam	55	35	47	2	1.08	5	39.26	12.30	94	2,666	785	4,565
Towanda	55	33	46	-3	1.51	4	34.22	13.18	92	2,697	316	4,579
Wellsboro	58	28	44	-2	1.23	6	39.73	18.51	96	2,106	334	3,900
Williamsport	57	35	48	-3	1.02	3	37.19	12.50	105	3,061	290	5,026
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	53	31	44	-3	1.61	4	38.73	14.88	78	2,289	260	4,107
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	55	30	46	-4	1.10	3	32.34	9.16	86	2,811	184	4,728
Susquehanna	57	33	46	2	1.53	4	39.77	14.09	91	2,740	824	4,636
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	61	30	48	-1	1.70	4	38.66	13.11	109	2,566	83	4,439
New Castle	62	31	49	1	1.07	4	39.83	16.35	83	2,864	376	4,761
Slippery Rock	64	32	50	3	1.34	3	38.50	13.43	104	2,668	440	4,571
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	53	29	46	-5	0.52	5	37.96	15.43	102	2,744	101	4,629
DuBois	51	33	45	-3	1.17	4	38.04	12.34	123	2,396	128	4,236
Lewistown	56	33	46	-6	1.40	5	35.63	11.50	83	3,071	167	5,021
Middletown	59	36	49	-4	0.76	4	40.18	16.19	89	3,541	249	5,545
Prince Gallitzi	54	25	43	-5	0.75	4	37.52	8.75	92	2,405	285	4,239
Selinsgrove	57	34	46	-4	0.88	4	37.95	12.80	91	2,960	260	4,893
State College	59	34	46	-4	0.95	6	37.72	14.97	88	2,823	230	4,730
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	57	35	48	-4	0.97	4	35.49	9.46	80	3,197	195	5,169
Lehighton	57	36	47	-5	1.65	5	40.41	14.30	99	2,802	-90	4,736
Matamoras	54	31	45	-5	1.21	4	34.62	8.36	81	2,489	-106	4,359
Tobyhanna	56	35	46	2	1.18	5	43.98	15.72	114	2,445	703	4,304
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	63	31	52	3	1.38	3	32.37	8.59	96	3,092	426	5,035
Derry	61	30	50	2	0.82	4	40.93	16.27	99	2,767	254	4,676
Myersdale	56	27	46	-4	0.94	5	33.26	6.25	87	2,228	-251	4,067
Mount Pleasant	62	26	49	2	1.17	5	36.66	8.48	79	2,726	483	4,615
Pittsburgh Intl	62	31	52	2	1.49	3	36.14	13.99	94	3,108	316	5,047
Rector	61	25	48	0	1.16	5	40.70	12.52	111	2,767	524	4,666
Waynesburg	65	28	51	3	1.54	4	36.40	12.31	92	2,843	267	4,759
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	63	34	47	-6	0.86	5	39.52	16.60	90	3,205	-13	5,166
Everett	58	28	45	-5	0.67	6	35.36	13.26	84	2,423	-215	4,274
Hanover	60	31	48	-5	0.73	5	35.14	12.22	80	3,318	100	5,285
Shippensburg	60	33	47	-6	0.78	5	42.41	20.14	88	3,363	155	5,326
South Mountain	55	30	44	-7	1.00	5	36.92	14.39	74	2,665	32	4,528
York	61	30	48	-5	0.59	4	29.37	5.10	72	3,317	101	5,291
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	61	34	49	-3	0.75	4	39.97	14.76	84	3,545	680	5,557
Hamburg	58	35	47	-2	1.04	4	37.45	8.12	93	3,213	620	5,186
Hopewell	59	35	48	-6	0.97	4	39.26	12.83	107	3,264	-135	5,248
Lancaster	59	34	49	-3	0.87	3	35.06	9.53	91	3,339	303	5,331
Neshaminy Falls	62	36	50	-2	0.99	4	37.08	8.02	77	3,537	543	5,545
New Holland	58	37	48	-4	0.78	5	36.66	11.13	93	3,323	287	5,301
Philadelphia	61	39	52	-3	1.30	4	33.16	8.59	78	3,903	379	5,928
Philadelphia NE	60	38	51	-4	1.10	4	36.54	11.97	82	3,765	241	5,786
Reading	58	32	48	-3	0.92	4	37.07	9.99	85	3,385	411	5,374
Valley Forge Na	65	30	49	-6	0.91	4	39.57	13.14	74	3,369	-30	5,353
Willow Grove	57	38	49	-3	0.61	4	30.46	1.40	84	3,485	491	5,490

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).  
Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.  
Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.  
Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.  
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## Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) -**

Corn yields are excellent. Bean harvest has been slow due to the weather; moisture is staying too high to harvest.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) -** The week was wet and cold with little field work done. High moisture corn was harvested in the high spots.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Earl J. Long -** The corn harvest is proceeding between rains. Corn for grain is drier than normal and is yielding better than ever before.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty -** Slow harvest week due to wet conditions in the field.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) -**

Damp and cool weather reduced field activities for the week. Some wheat was planted Monday; wheat planted earlier in the month looks very good. Still very few acres of soybeans harvested. The corn harvest continues despite wet soil conditions. An abundance of good pumpkins are still available.

**UNION COUNTY, Glenn L. Spangler -** Very little field work was done due to wet and cloudy conditions.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

**(FSA) -** Several days of light rain have slowed corn and soybean harvests. Producers are moving quickly to get lodged soybeans harvested before any winter weather. Harvest progress still remains well ahead of average.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 24, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	85	52	68
Corn, harvested	55	36	45
Barley, emerged	85	62	74
Wheat, planted	85	70	74
Wheat, emerged	55	42	54
Soybeans, harvested	32	39	33
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	83	73	83
Grapes, harvested	99	67	91

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 24, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	3	13	47	37
Soybeans	0	2	15	51	32
Quality of hay made	16	14	34	31	5
Pasture	3	20	16	59	2

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